



THE EMBASSY OF THE  
**HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

### **A Milestone in Jordan's Democratization**

On January 23, 2013, the Kingdom of Jordan will hold Parliamentary elections under the new election law that allows citizens to cast 2 votes, one for a district level candidate and one for a national level candidate, the former paving the way for the emergence of political blocs and national coalitions which will help in consolidating partisan work and spreading democratic culture.

The election is a step in a series of reforms spearheaded by His Majesty King Abdullah II aimed at transitioning Jordan to a fully democratic society characterized by transparency and openness.

- Since ascending to the Throne in 1999, His Majesty II has championed evolutionary political reform. His Majesty has pushed for significant social, economic and political reforms well before the onset of the current "Arab Spring". Over the past decade, His Majesty has laid the groundwork for a cultural shift towards a progressive and inclusive political reform.
- The Jordanian approach to reform, unlike other cases in the region, began with a comprehensive and inclusive national dialogue that led to constitutional amendments, the passage of laws governing political life, the establishment of the Independent Election Commission and a Constitutional Court, followed by legislative elections to kick-start the experience of parliamentary governments.
- More than one third of the Constitution was amended to reinforce the concept of separation and balance of powers and prevent the predominance of one over the other, in addition to strengthening the concept of respecting human rights and protecting fundamental freedoms.
- For the first time, the Election Law adopts the concept of proportional representation on the national level to pave the way for the emergence of political blocs and coalitions which will help in consolidating partisan work and spreading democratic culture.
- For the first time, an independent commission will manage and supervise all phases of the electoral process to ensure holding elections according to the highest standards of integrity, fairness and transparency.
- Voters have a national responsibility to debate and discuss with candidates their positions on key issues facing the country and base their vote on their programs, not on personal relationships and affinities.
- His Majesty has repeatedly reiterated that reforms are part of an on-going process and do not end with these elections. The elections are a mean rather than an end in itself. The momentum of elections will be maintained to review our performance and adjust the trajectory of reform to make sure that this milestone leads to achieving national goals in our democratic transformation.

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